



SONIC UNIVERSE™

SPARK
OF LIFE

1

**NEW
STORY ARC!**

SONIC UNIVERSE | 71



Tracy
Yardley!
Hunzeker

**PLUS: WHO OR WHAT IS
PHAGE?!**



Welcome to Sonic's comic book adventures – a world beyond what you know from the SEGA games! Where, as strange new threats emerge, NICOLE – the advanced artificial being – is confronted by a figure from her past...



**CHARACTER
= SELECT =**



**PRINCESS
SALLY ACORN**
FREEDOM FIGHTER LEADER



**NICOLE THE
HOLO-LYNX**
ADVANCED A.I.



**MILES "TAILS"
PROWER**
YOUNG GENIUS

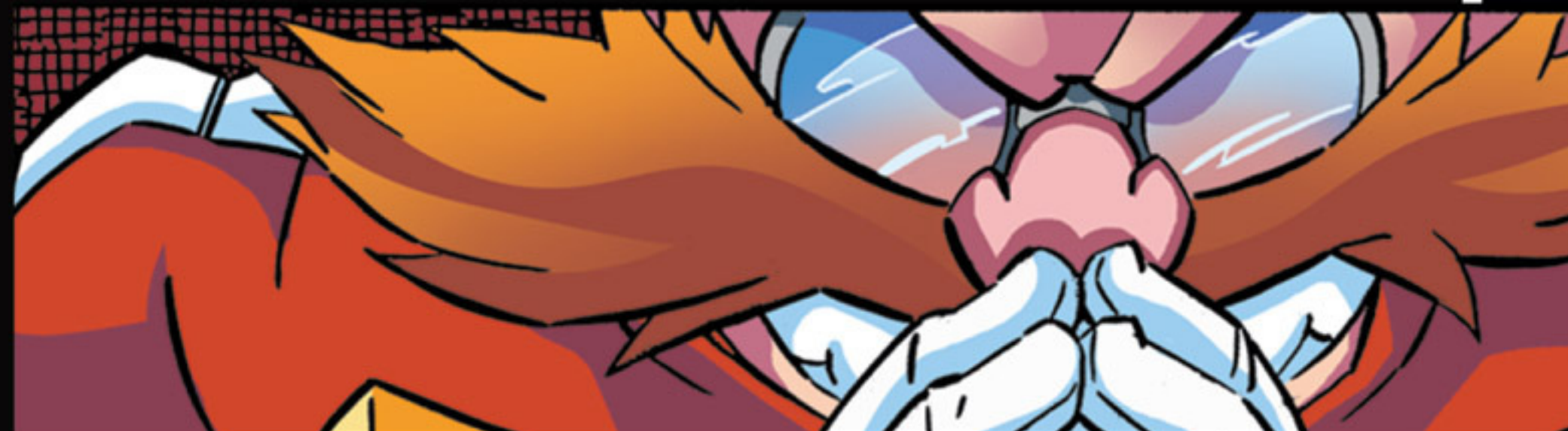


???

SONIC UNIVERSE™

PREVIOUSLY...

PLANET PUZZLE



Thanks to the sinister Dr. Eggman, Dark Gaia has begun to stir, leaving the planet cracked and broken! Continents have split apart, and dark creatures emerge at night. Now, the Freedom Fighters are on the hunt for the Chaos Emeralds and Gaia Temples needed to restore the world!

With Sonic the Hedgehog, Amy Rose, Antoine and Bunnie on a mission elsewhere, Princess Sally and the remaining Freedom Fighters find themselves desperately defending the Sky Patrol from attack!

**But they aren't the only
ones in trouble ...**



COLLECTOR COVER SPOTLIGHT

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WEB LYNX VARIANT BY
Rafa Knight

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BIG THE CAT
SELF-
EXPLANATORY

GET THESE
THINGS OFF
MY SHIP!

WORKING
ON IT!

**ROTOR
WALRUS**
SKY PATROL
CAPTAIN

**MILES "TAILS"
PROWER**
FLYING GENIUS

**SALLY
ACORN**
ROYAL
TACTICIAN

SPARK OF LIFE

=PART ONE=



POMF

HOW
LONG TILL
SUNRISE?!

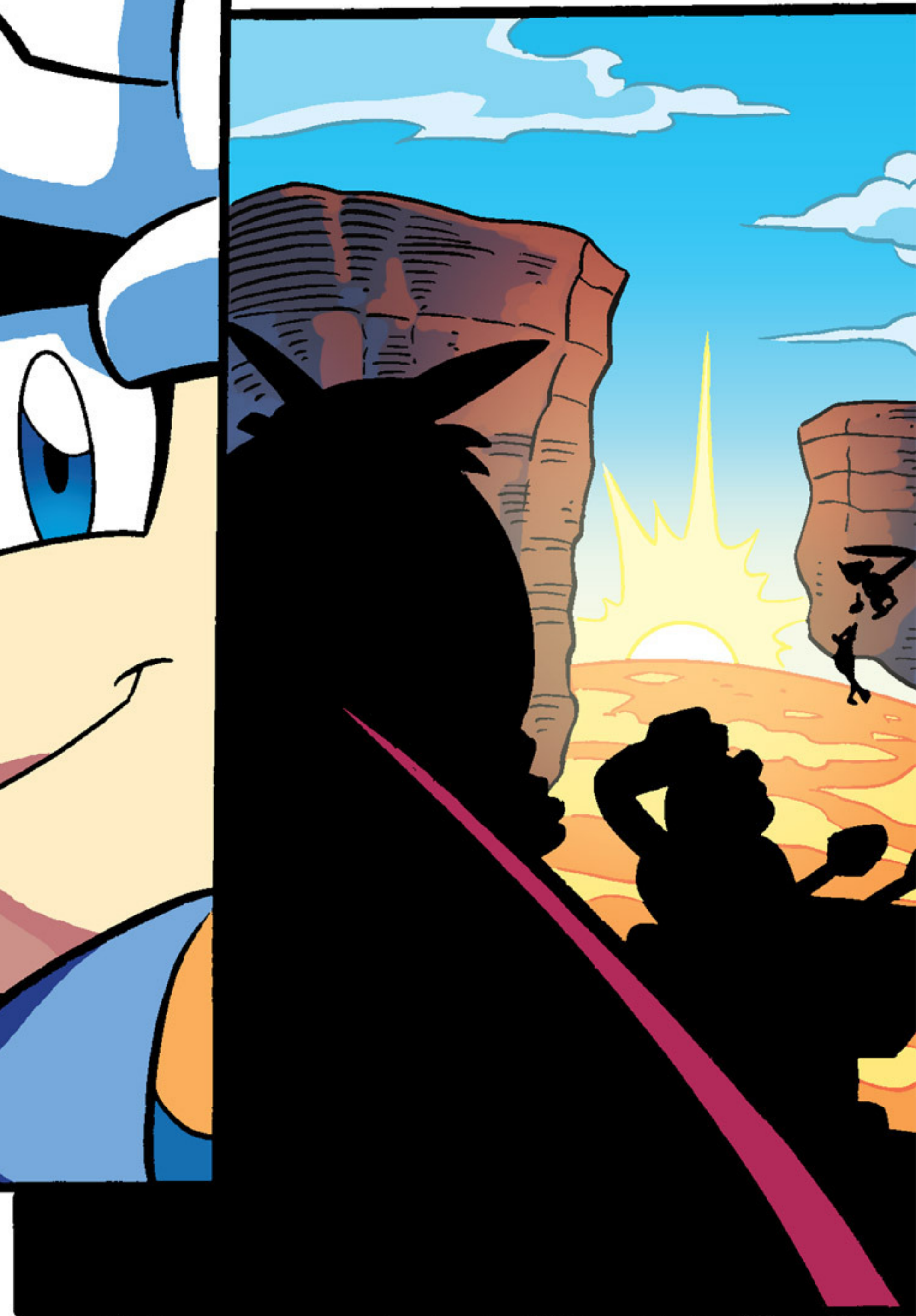
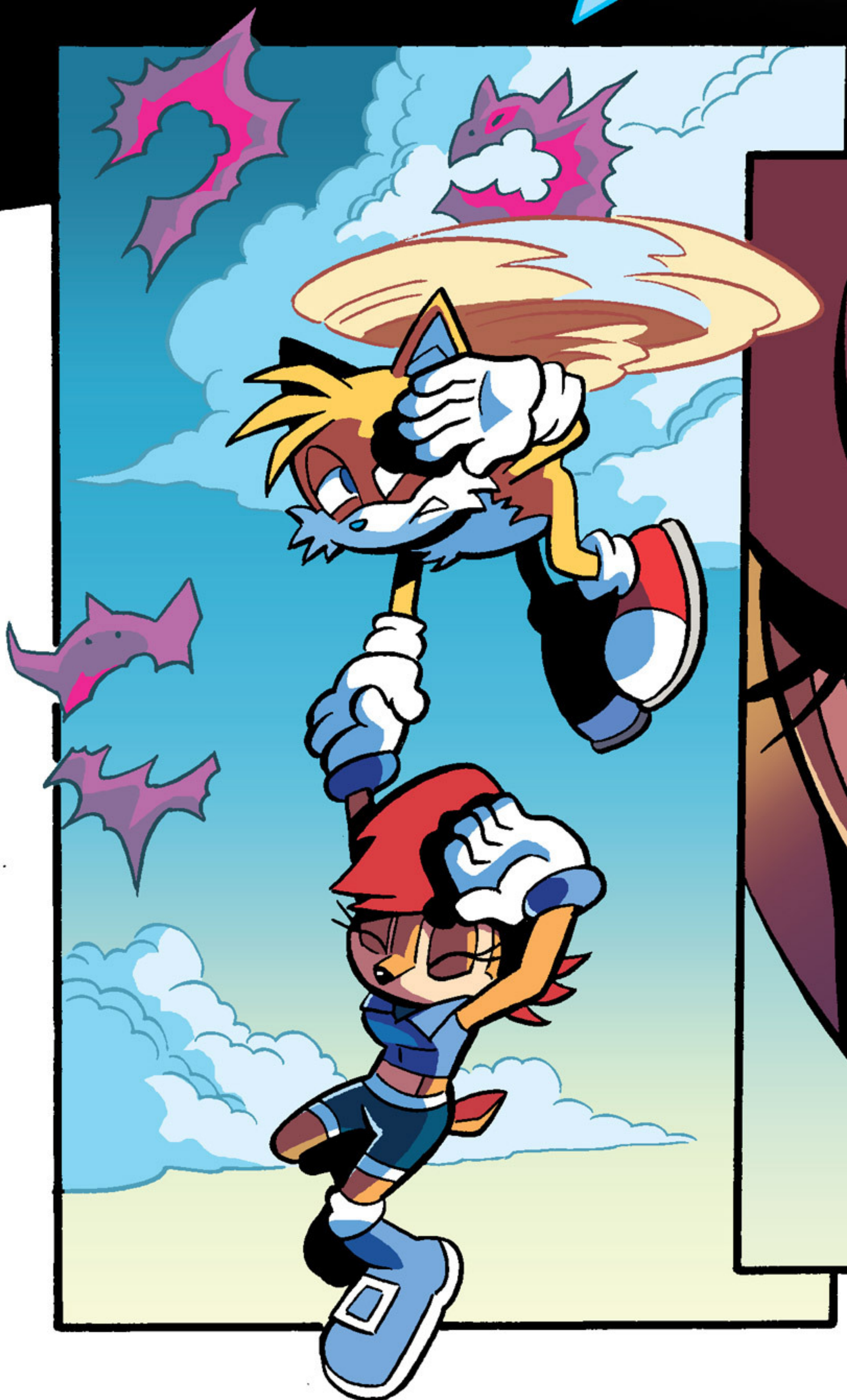
NICOLE
ARTIFICIAL
INTELLIGENCE

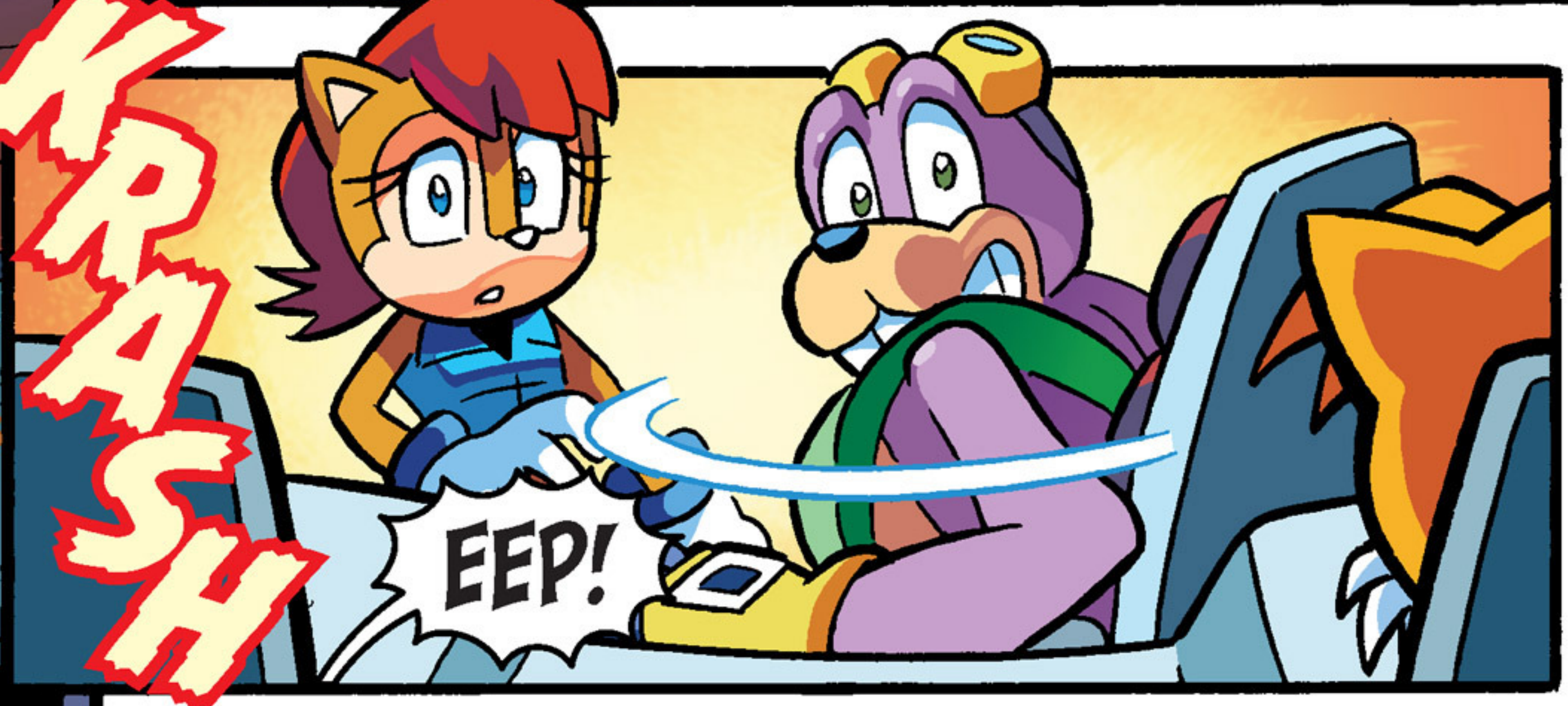
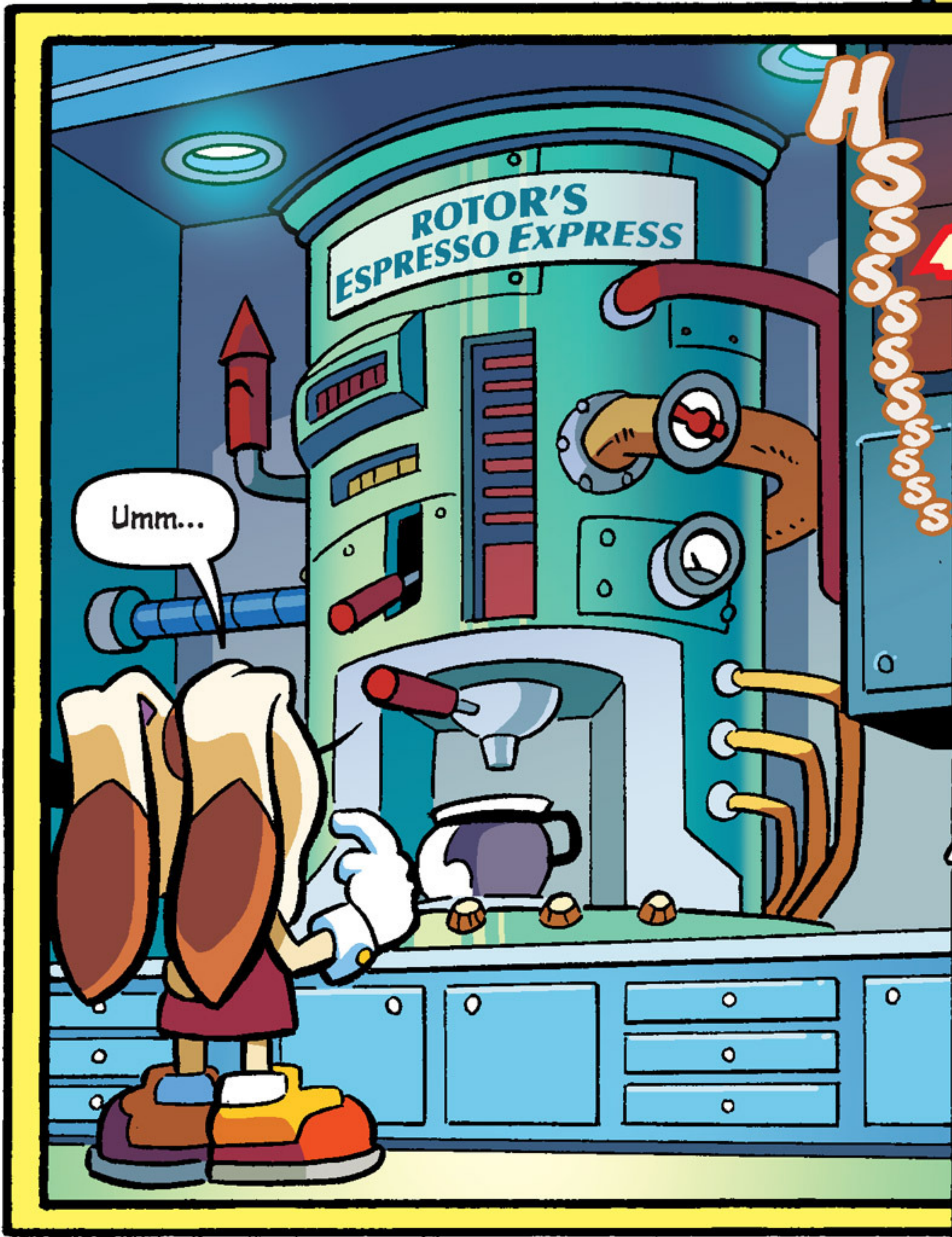
LESS THAN
THREE MINUTES!
PRECISELY, TWO
MINUTES, SEVEN-
TEEN--

I DON'T
THINK WE
HAVE--**AHH!**

**DARK GAIA
CREATURES**
NIGHT TERRORS
FROM THE DEEP

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of SEGA CORPORATION







Oh SHUSH,
I'M TIRED.

SALLY...I
KNOW EVERYTHING
TURNED OUT FOR
THE BEST, BUT
IF I MAY...

WHAT YOU DID
BACK THERE WAS
RECKLESS.
CREATURES LIKE THE
ONES HARASSING TAILS
DISAPPEAR ONCE THE
SUN RISES. THEY WOULD
NOT HAVE LASTED
MUCH LONGER.

I KNOW THAT.
BUT IT'S NOT LIKE
I COULD JUST WATCH
AND DO NOTHING,
EITHER.

SIGH
I UNDERSTAND.
AT LEAST, I
THINK I DO. BUT
STILL--

AUGH!

...WHAT...
DR.
ELLIDY...!

WAIT,
WHAT?
NICOLE!

NOW
WHAT'S
WRONG?

SHE'S
GONE!



I DON'T GET IT!
SHE SAID SOMETHING
ABOUT DR. ELLIDY
AND DISAPPEARED!

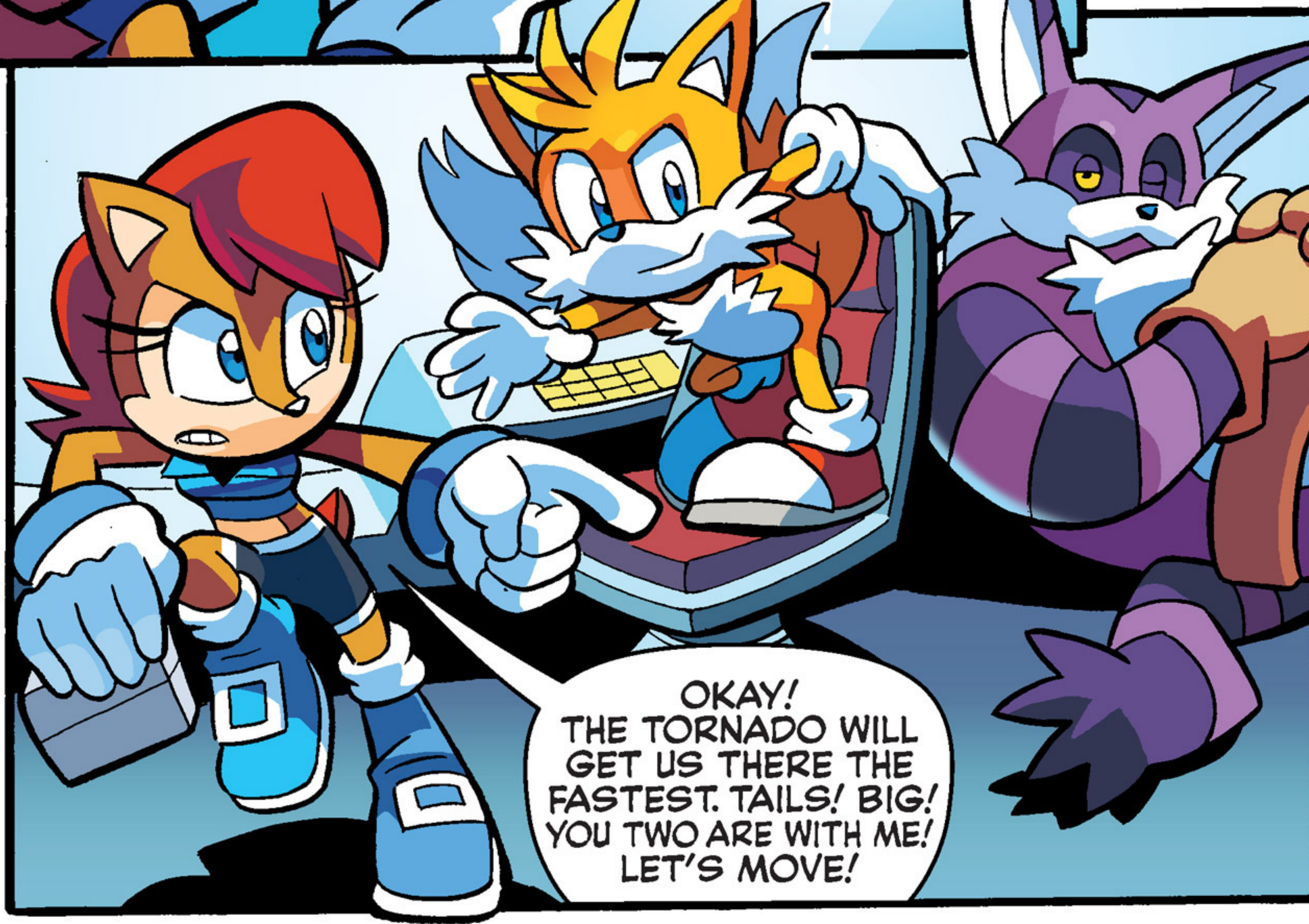
WE HAVEN'T
HEARD THAT
NAME IN A
WHILE.

NICOLE ISN'T
ANYWHERE IN OUR
SYSTEMS. BUT...WE'RE
SHOWING READINGS
FROM THE DIGITAL
WORLD, SO I THINK
THAT'S WHERE SHE
MUST'VE GONE.



SOMETHING MAY
HAVE HAPPENED TO
DR. ELLIDY...WE'D
BETTER GO CHECK
HIS RESIDENCE ON
ISOLATED ISLAND.
BUT NICOLE...

SHE CAN ALWAYS
JUMP BACK FROM THE
DIGITAL WORLD TO SKY
PATROL'S SYSTEMS.
BUT IF THE 'OL DOC'S
IN TROUBLE, YOU'D
BETTER GET
MOVING.



OKAY!
THE TORNADO WILL
GET US THERE THE
FASTEST. TAILS! BIG!
YOU TWO ARE WITH ME!
LET'S MOVE!



Um...
MR. ROTOR...?
WHAT'S THE "DIGITAL
WORLD"?

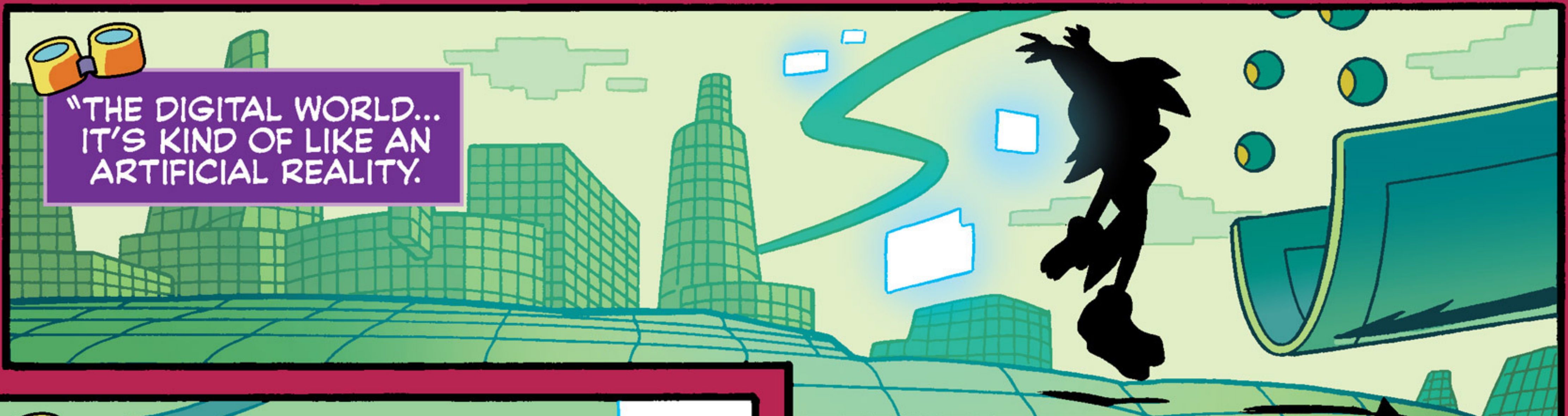


"WHERE DID
NICOLE GO?"





"THE DIGITAL WORLD...
IT'S KIND OF LIKE AN
ARTIFICIAL REALITY."



"IT DOESN'T EXIST IN THE REAL WORLD.
WHICH IS TO SAY THAT WHILE IT **CAN** BE
ACCESSED FROM COMPUTERS..."



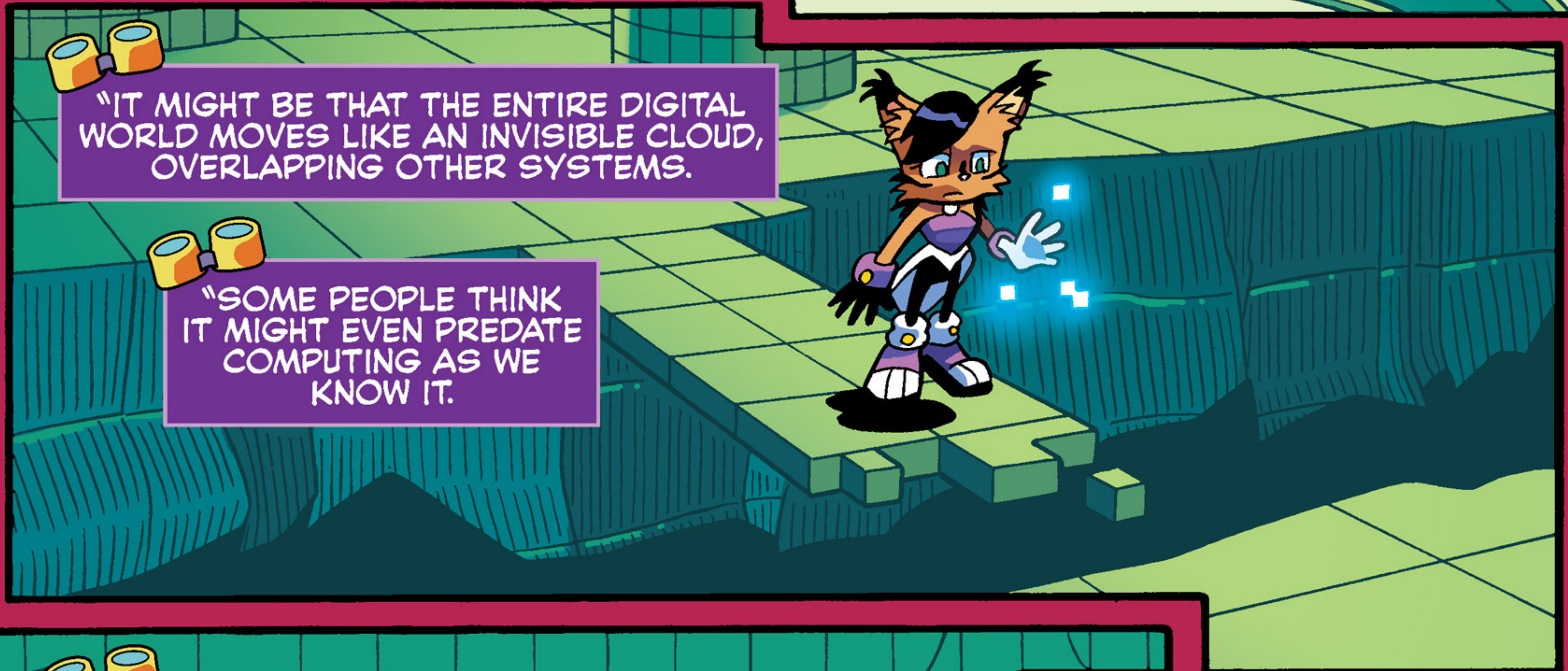
"...IT DOESN'T SEEM TO BE
ACTUALLY "HOUSED" IN ONE
ANYWHERE. IN FACT, NO ONE
KNOWS **WHERE** IT CAME
FROM."



"IT MIGHT BE THAT THE ENTIRE DIGITAL
WORLD MOVES LIKE AN INVISIBLE CLOUD,
OVERLAPPING OTHER SYSTEMS."



"SOME PEOPLE THINK
IT MIGHT EVEN PREDATE
COMPUTING AS WE
KNOW IT."



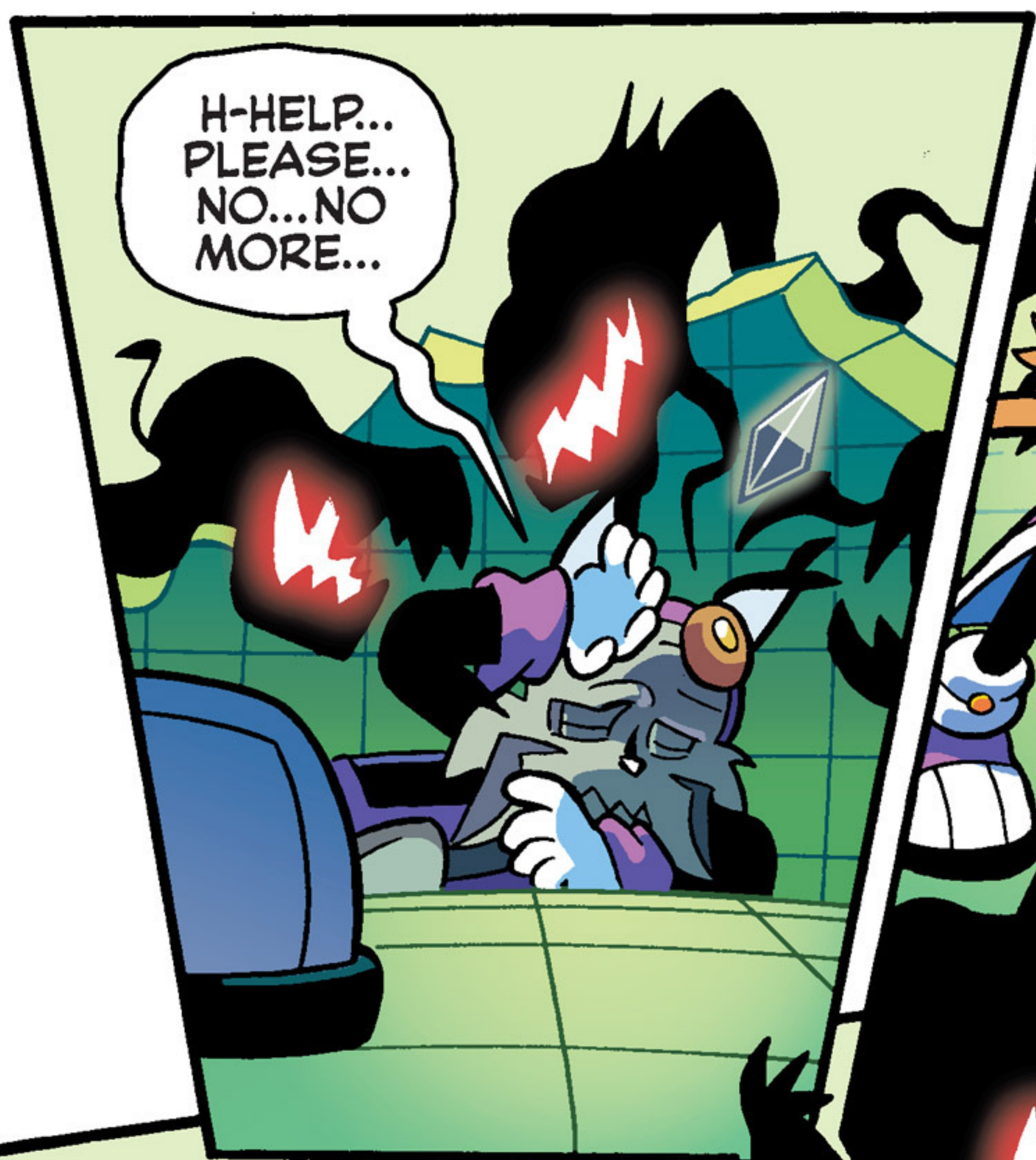
"TO BE HONEST, WHAT
WE KNOW IS MORE
THEORY THAN FACT."



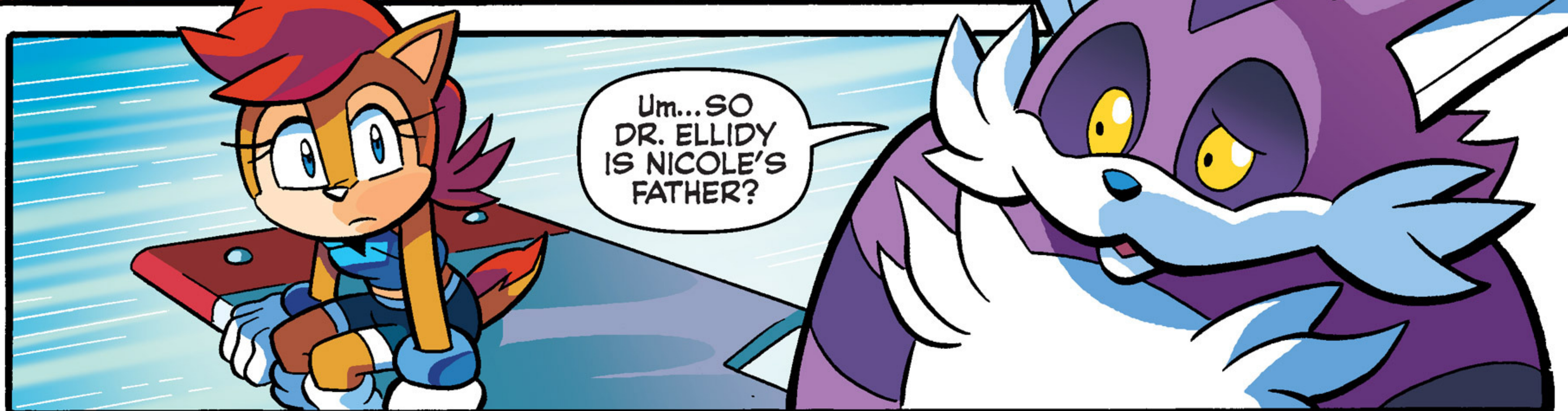
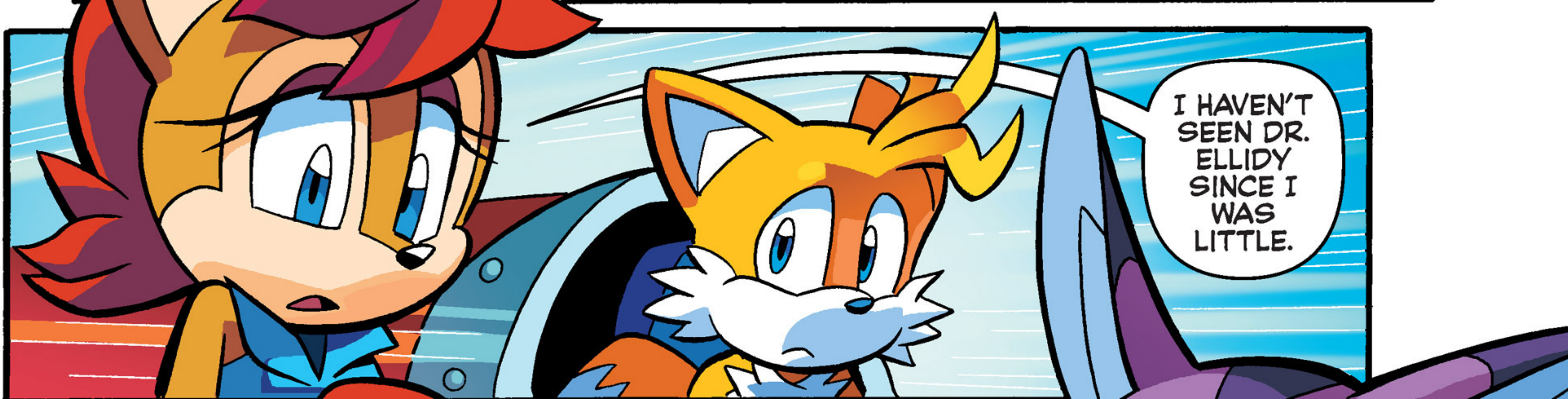
"WHATEVER'S GOING ON...
IF DR. ELLIDY IS IN TROUBLE
AND CALLED OUT THROUGH
THE DIGITAL WORLD
SOMEHOW..."



"...NICOLE MAY BE THE
ONLY ONE WHO **CAN**
HELP."



MEANWHILE...





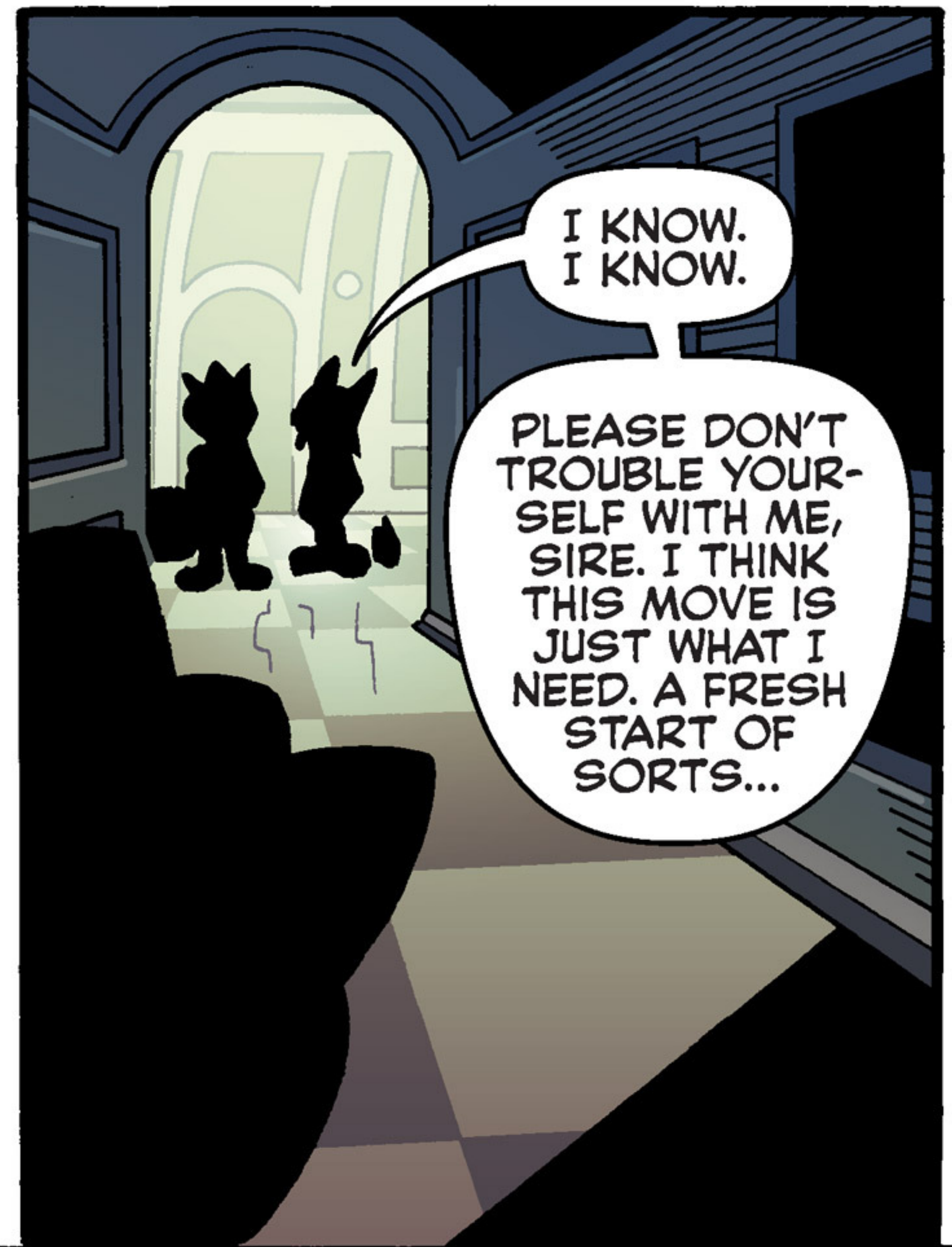
"...A LOT OF THINGS CHANGED..."

THE PAST.

MY BOAT LEAVES IN A COUPLE HOURS, KING ACORN. I'D BETTER BE ON MY WAY.

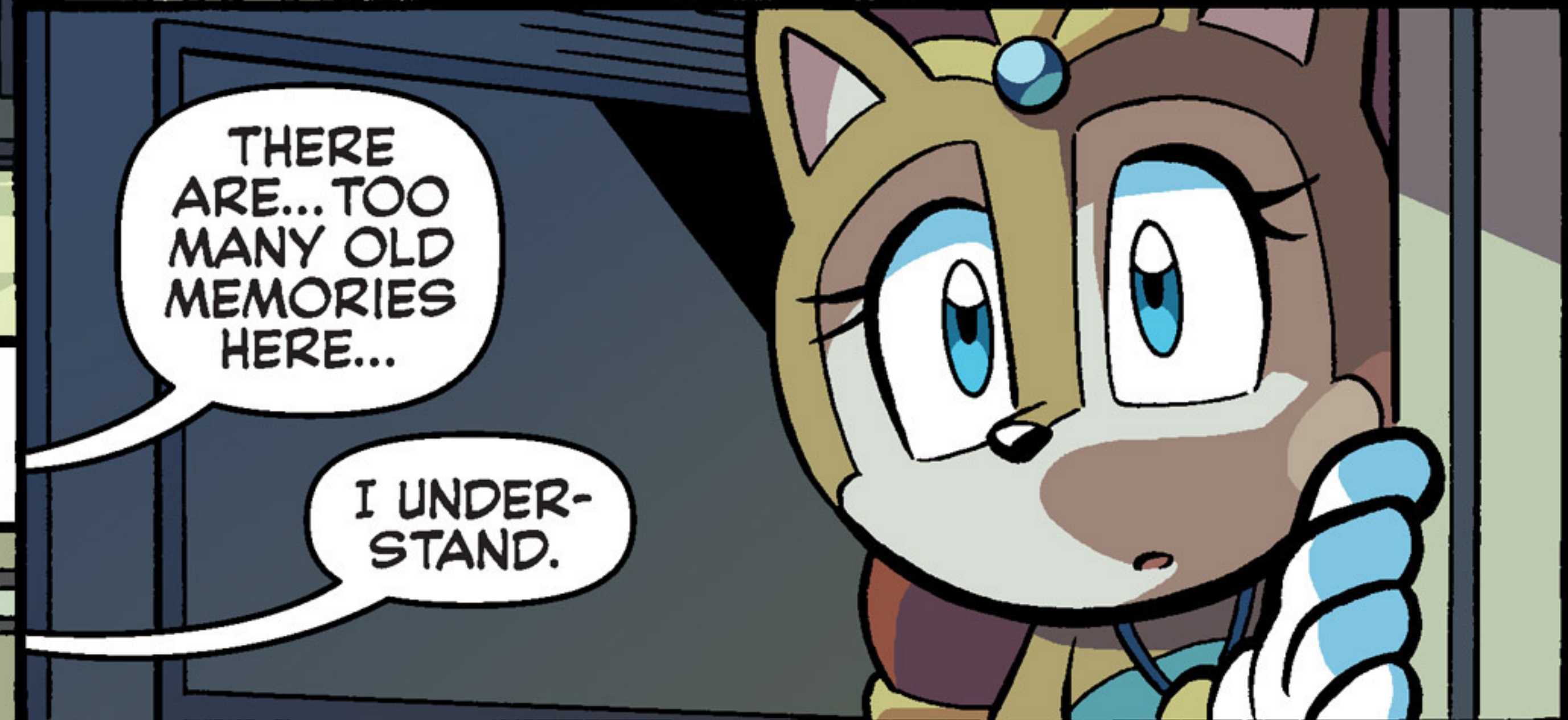
I'M STILL SAD TO SEE YOU GO, OLD FRIEND. YOU'VE DONE SO MUCH FOR THIS KINGDOM.

IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO...



I KNOW. I KNOW.

PLEASE DON'T TROUBLE YOURSELF WITH ME, SIRE. I THINK THIS MOVE IS JUST WHAT I NEED. A FRESH START OF SORTS...



THERE ARE... TOO MANY OLD MEMORIES HERE...

I UNDERSTAND.



ARE YOU REALLY LEAVING, DR. ELLIDY?

Ah... JUST THE PRINCESS I WANTED TO SEE!



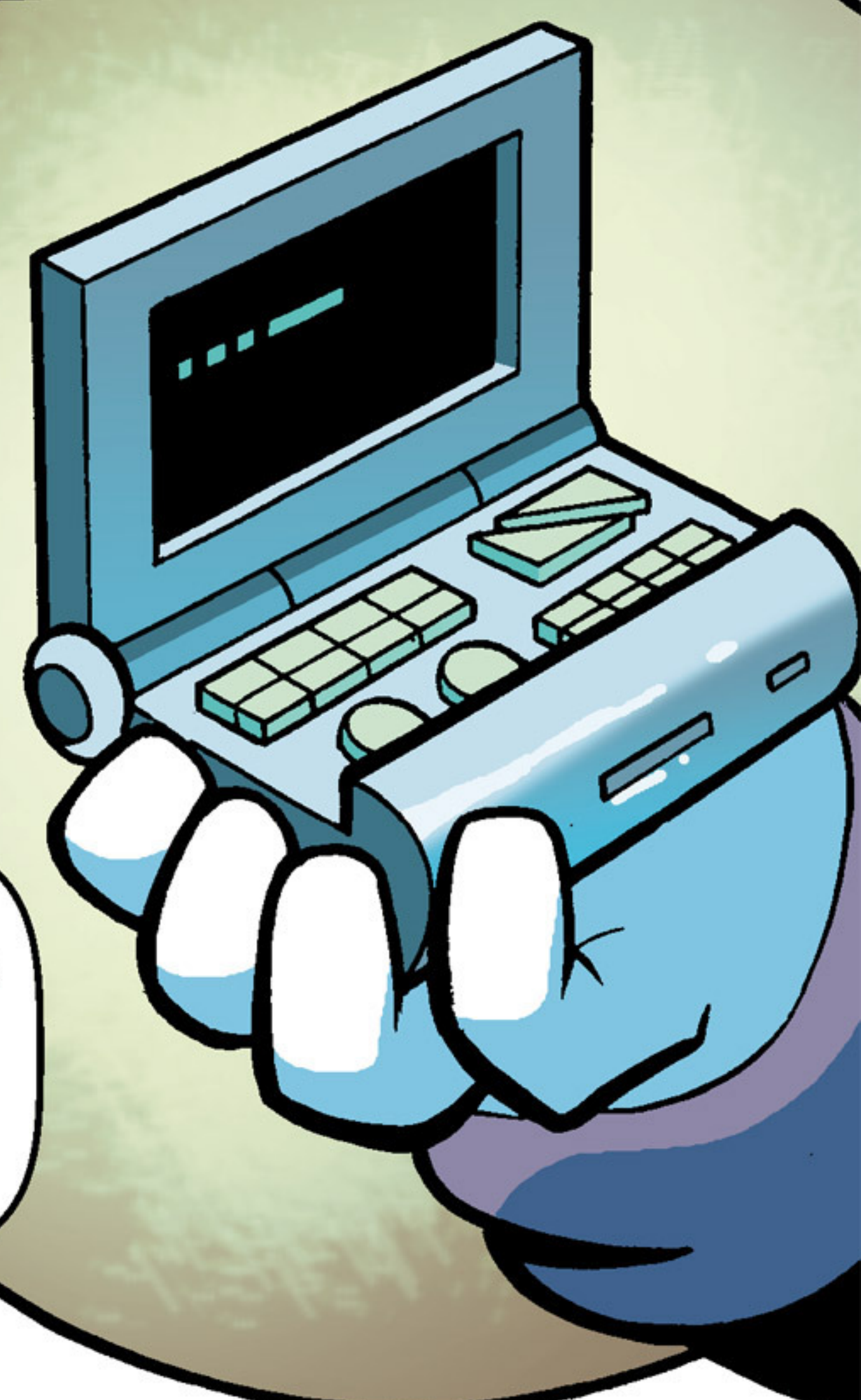
HERE... BEFORE I GO, I HAVE SOMETHING FOR YOU.

A PRESENT?

AT FIRST, I WASN'T SURE WHAT I WANTED TO DO WITH THIS... BUT I THINK YOU'LL MAKE THE BEST USE OF IT.

THIS IS MY MOST POWERFUL COMPUTER TO DATE. IT HOUSES AN ADVANCED A.I.-- A VERY SMART PROGRAM--THAT CONNECTS DIRECTLY TO THE GRAND ARCHIVE.

WITH THIS, YOU'LL HAVE A WEALTH OF KNOWLEDGE AT YOUR FINGERTIPS.





THE DIGITAL WORLD,
PRESENT DAY.

SO YOU DIGITIZED
YOUR CONSCIOUSNESS...
THEN YOU FOUND YOURSELF
TRAPPED OUT HERE?

Y-YES. I WAS
INVESTIGATING A
PROBLEM... THOUGHT
I'D TAKE A DIRECT
APPROACH. I'D DONE
IT BEFORE, WITH-
OUT INCIDENT.

I'VE ALWAYS
BEEN CURIOUS ABOUT THE
DIGITAL WORLD. I CAME ACROSS
THIS DISTORTION, AND...

~~SIGH~~ OKAY, I WANDERED.
I THOUGHT I KNEW HOW TO...
GET BACK, B-BUT THERE'S
THIS BLOCKADE NOW...

I T-TRIED TO
WORK AROUND IT,
BUT THEN THOSE...
THINGS BEGAN TO
F-FOLLOW ME.

I DREAD TO
THINK OF HOW LONG
I'VE BEEN IN HERE...
PROBABLY
DEHYDRATED...

IT WAS ALL I
COULD DO TO
SEND OUT A CALL
FOR HELP. TO THINK
YOU WOULD BE THE
ONE TO ANSWER
IT...!

MORE
LIKE I
FELT
IT.

YOUR PHYSICAL
FORM, THIS... AVATAR
OF YOURS. IS IT
SOMETHING SALLY
ASSIGNED TO
YOU?

NO. I CHOSE
THIS FORM FOR
MYSELF.

YOU...
CHOSE IT.
I SEE.

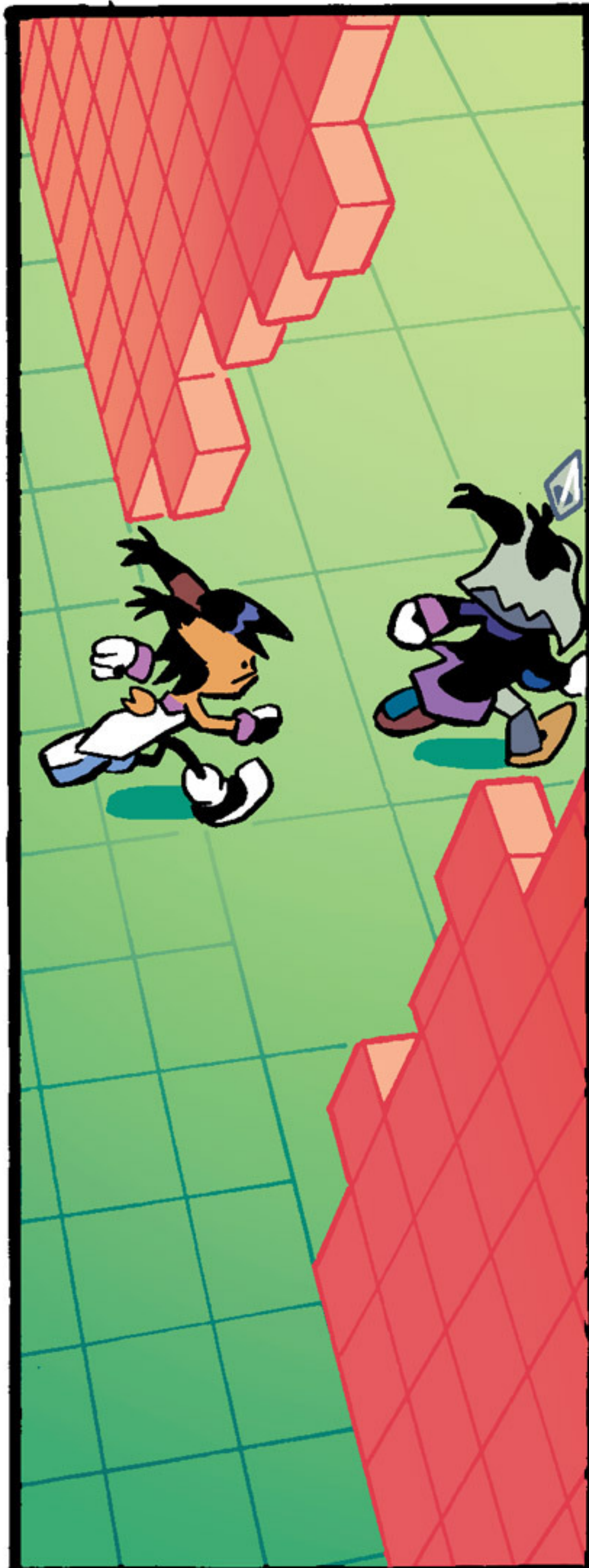
PLEASE KEEP
MOVING. BEING
HERE SO LONG
CAN'T BE
HEALTHY.

Oh!
THERE!

I ENTERED THE
DIGITAL WORLD
JUST BEYOND
THAT BLOCKADE!

I SEE IT.
DO NOT WORRY,
DR. ELLIDY.

I'LL
GET YOU
HOME.



ISOLATED ISLAND

SORRY I COULDN'T LAND US ANY CLOSER.

DR. ELLIDY'S PLACE SHOULD BE RIGHT OVER THERE.

YES. I SAW IT RIGHT BEFORE WE LANDED. LET'S GO. KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR ANYTHING UNUSUAL.

THIS ISLAND IS NICE. REMINDS ME OF HOME.

THERE'S SUPPOSED TO BE A LAKE OF RINGS HERE, RIGHT?

YES. DR. ELLIDY ONLY STARTED RESEARCHING RINGS ONCE HE MOVED HERE.

WHEN HE SENT ME THESE RING-BLADES, IT WAS THE FIRST TIME WE'D HEARD FROM HIM IN YEARS.

IT SOUNDS SO...LONELY.

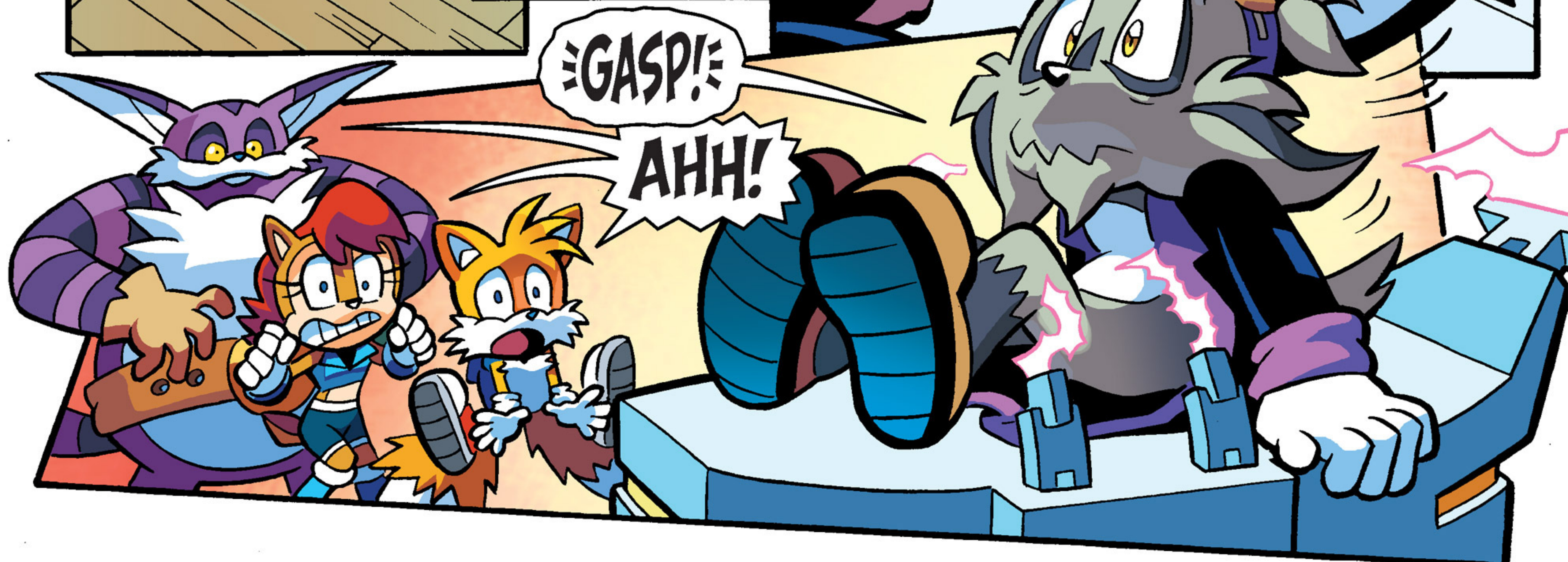
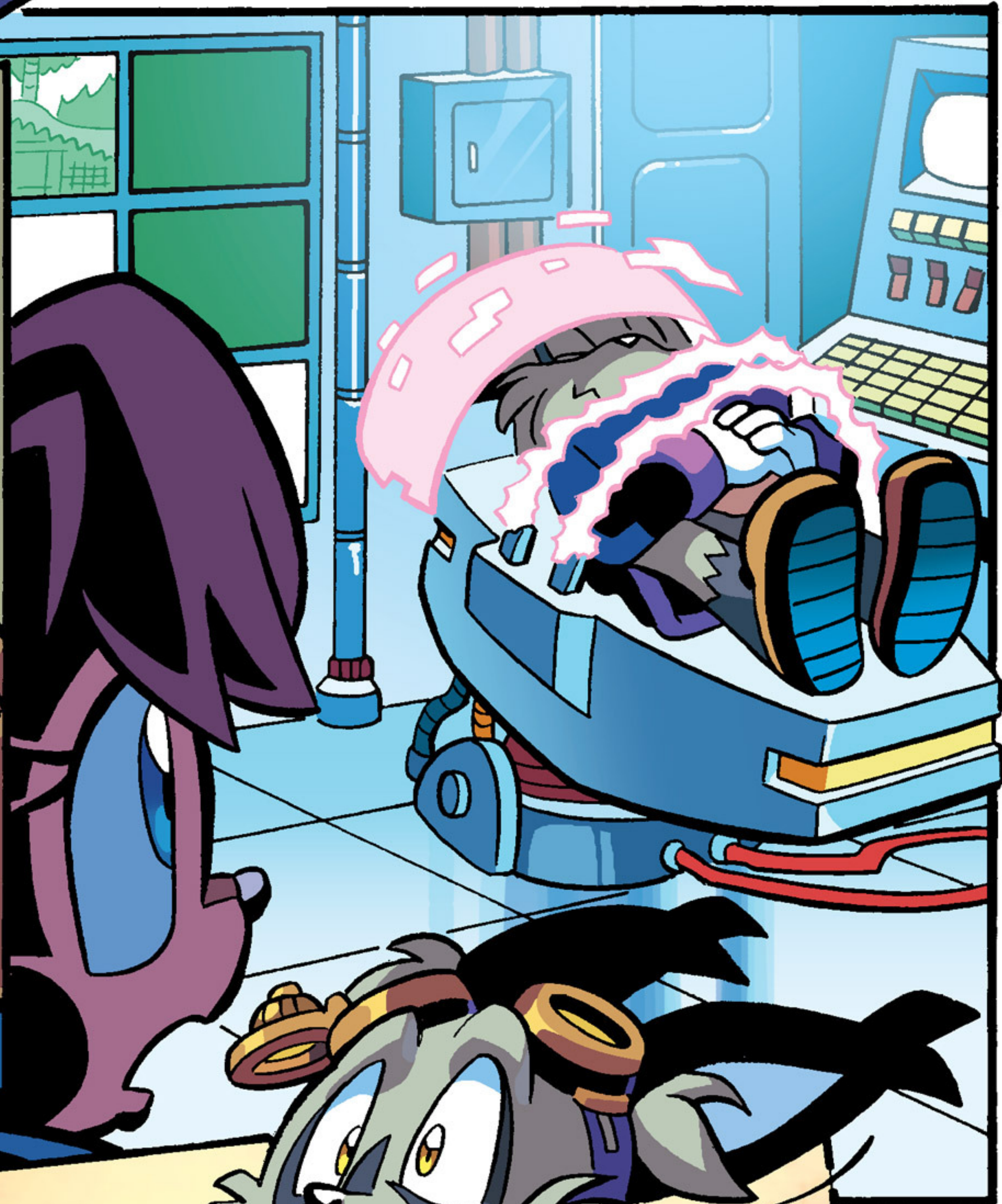
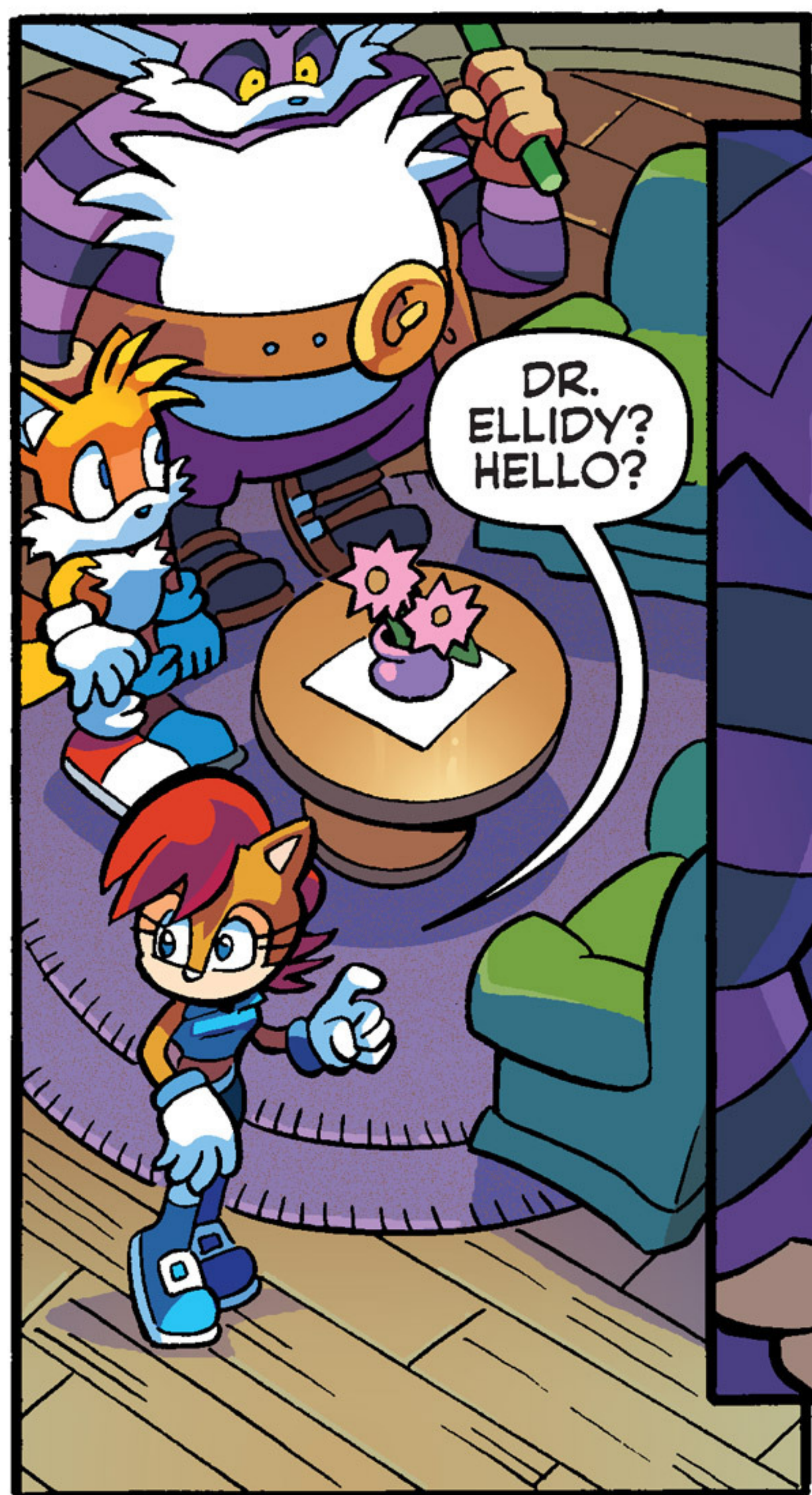
YEAH.

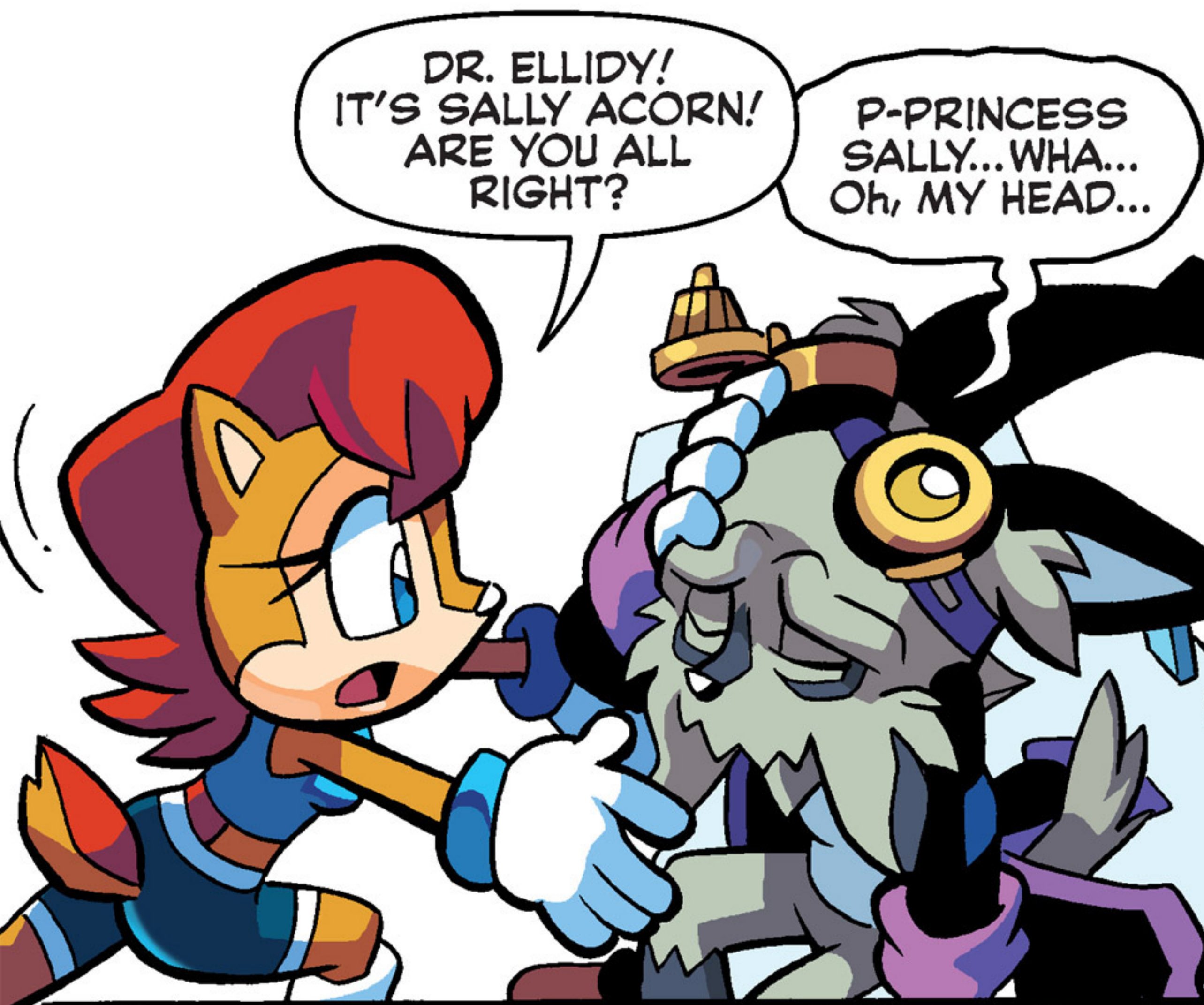
EVEN IN THE MYSTIC RUINS, I ALWAYS HAD FROGGY WITH ME!

I HOPE NICOLE IS OKAY.

WHATEVER'S HAPPENING HERE COULD--







DR. ELLIDY!
IT'S SALLY ACORN!
ARE YOU ALL
RIGHT?

P-PRINCESS
SALLY... WHA...
Oh, MY HEAD...



PERFECT
TIMING. SORRY
FOR LEAVING
SKY PATROL SO
ABRUPTLY.

NICOLE!
HERE, JUST
A SEC...



THE DOCTOR HAD DIGITIZED
HIS CONSCIOUSNESS AND
GOTTEN TRAPPED IN THE
DIGITAL WORLD FOR
SEVERAL HOURS.

BIG, GET
SOME WATER,
PLEASE.

OKAY!



Oh,
THANK
YOU...

THANK YOU
ALL SO MUCH
FOR COMING...

IT'S THANKS
TO NICOLE THAT
WE EVEN KNEW
YOU WERE IN
TROUBLE.

IN FACT...
WHY DON'T
YOU THANK
HER IN
PERSON?



IN...IN
PERSON?

...HOW...



LIKE I
SAID, IT'S
BEEN A
LONG
TIME...

AND...I'VE
LEARNED A FEW
TRICKS SINCE YOU
FIRST CREATED
ME.



I FOUND A CAN OF BROTH IN THE KITCHEN. HOPE YOU DON'T MIND... YOU NEED TO GET YOUR STRENGTH UP.

Oh, THANK YOU.



I ADDED SOME HERBS FROM SOME OF THE POTTED PLANTS IN THERE...

TRUTH BE TOLD, WITH CREAM AND ANTOINE ON THE SKY PATROL, I DON'T GET TO COOK MUCH.



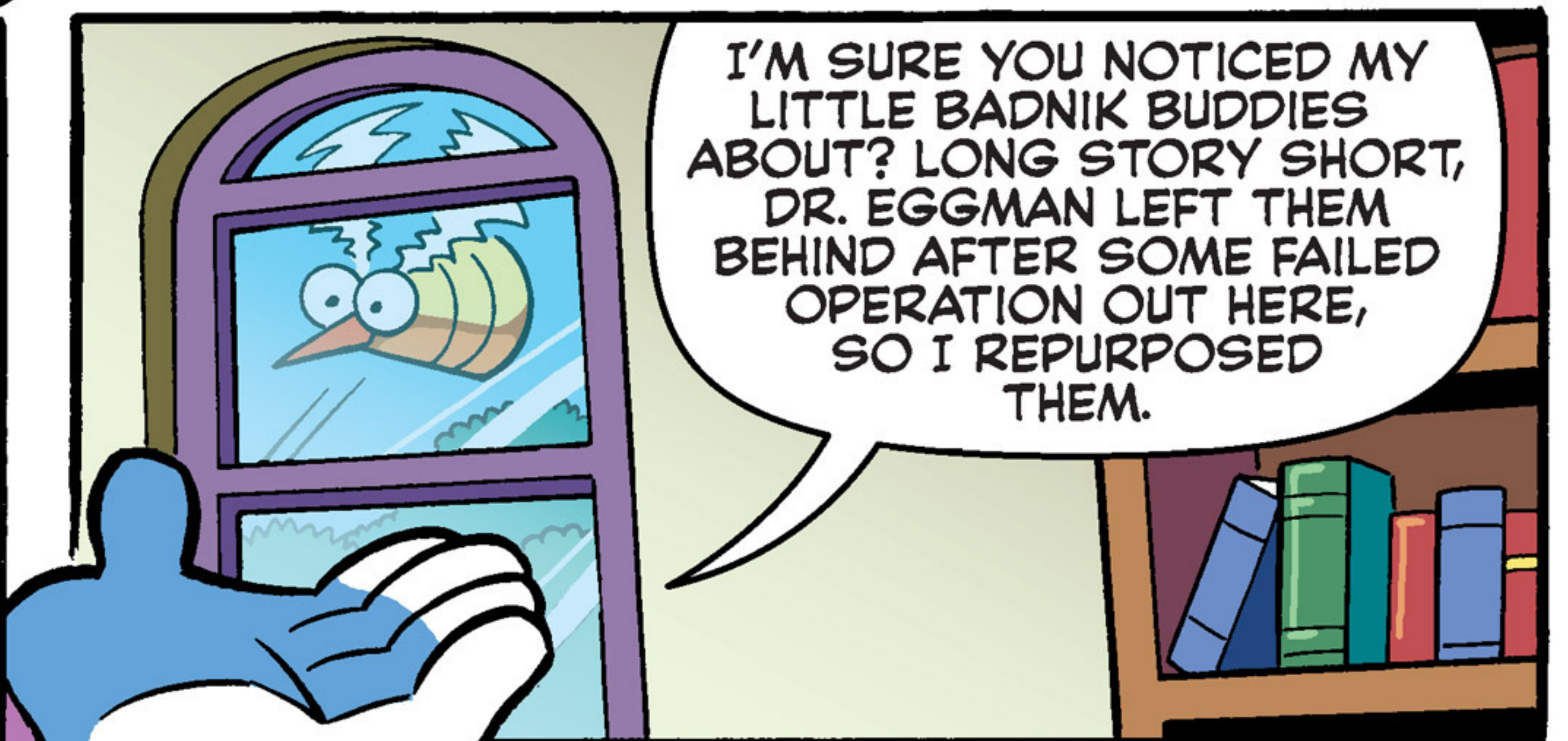
IT'S VERY... BRACING.

WELL... GOOD.

DOCTOR, IF YOU DON'T MIND... WHAT'S GOING ON?

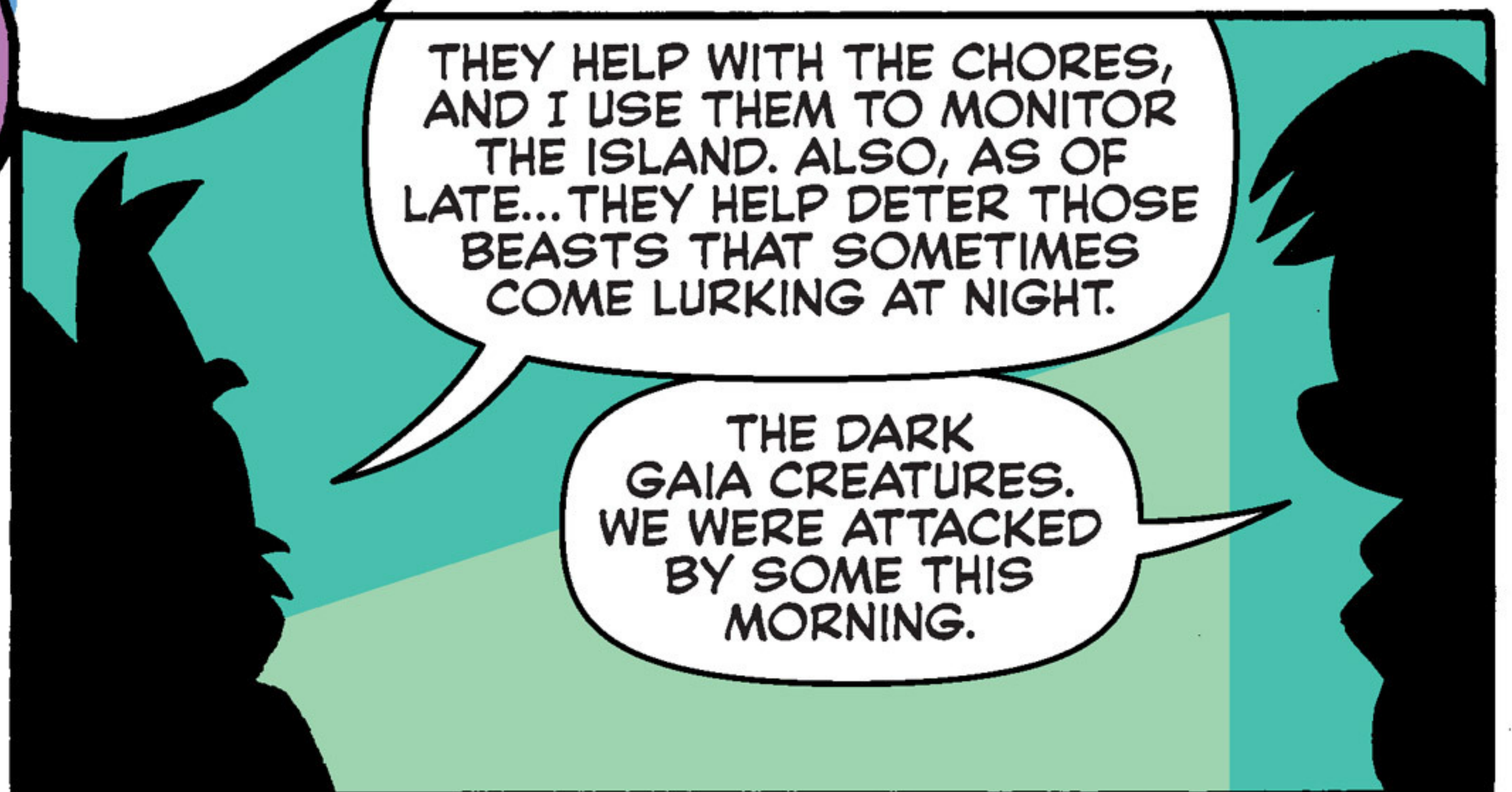


I'M SURE YOU NOTICED MY LITTLE BADNIK BUDDIES ABOUT? LONG STORY SHORT, DR. EGGMAN LEFT THEM BEHIND AFTER SOME FAILED OPERATION OUT HERE, SO I REPURPOSED THEM.



THEY HELP WITH THE CHORES, AND I USE THEM TO MONITOR THE ISLAND. ALSO, AS OF LATE... THEY HELP DETER THOSE BEASTS THAT SOMETIMES COME LURKING AT NIGHT.

THE DARK GAIA CREATURES. WE WERE ATTACKED BY SOME THIS MORNING.



IT'S HORRIFIC. CHUCK CALLED ME TO EXPLAIN WHAT WAS GOING ON, HOPING I HAD SOME INSIGHT. NOT REALLY MY FIELD, OF COURSE...BUT I'M GLAD THAT YOU ARE TAKING ACTION.

AFTER THE QUAKES,* I SENT SOME OF MY ROBOTS OUT TO INVESTIGATE. SOME OF THE FOOTAGE I RECEIVED...THE WATER JUST **STOPS** AND THEN, NOTHING BUT A CLOUDED ABYSS...I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY THE OCEAN ITSELF HASN'T POURED OFF THE EDGE.

*THE WORLD SHATTERED APART IN **SONIC THE HEDGEHOG VOL. 1** GRAPHIC NOVEL--EDITOR

ACTUALLY, ABOUT THAT... "IT'S MAGIC" SUMS IT UP PRETTY WELL.*

I HATE THAT EXCUSE.

EVEN WHEN IT'S ACCURATE?

ESPECIALLY WHEN IT'S ACCURATE.

DOCTOR, I WANTED TO DISCUSS SOMETHING WITH YOU.

*WE DISCOVERED WHY IN "WAVES OF CHANGE"! STH #260-263--EDITOR

ACTUALLY...I THINK I NEED TO GO LIE DOWN. I'M STILL NOT FEELING WELL...

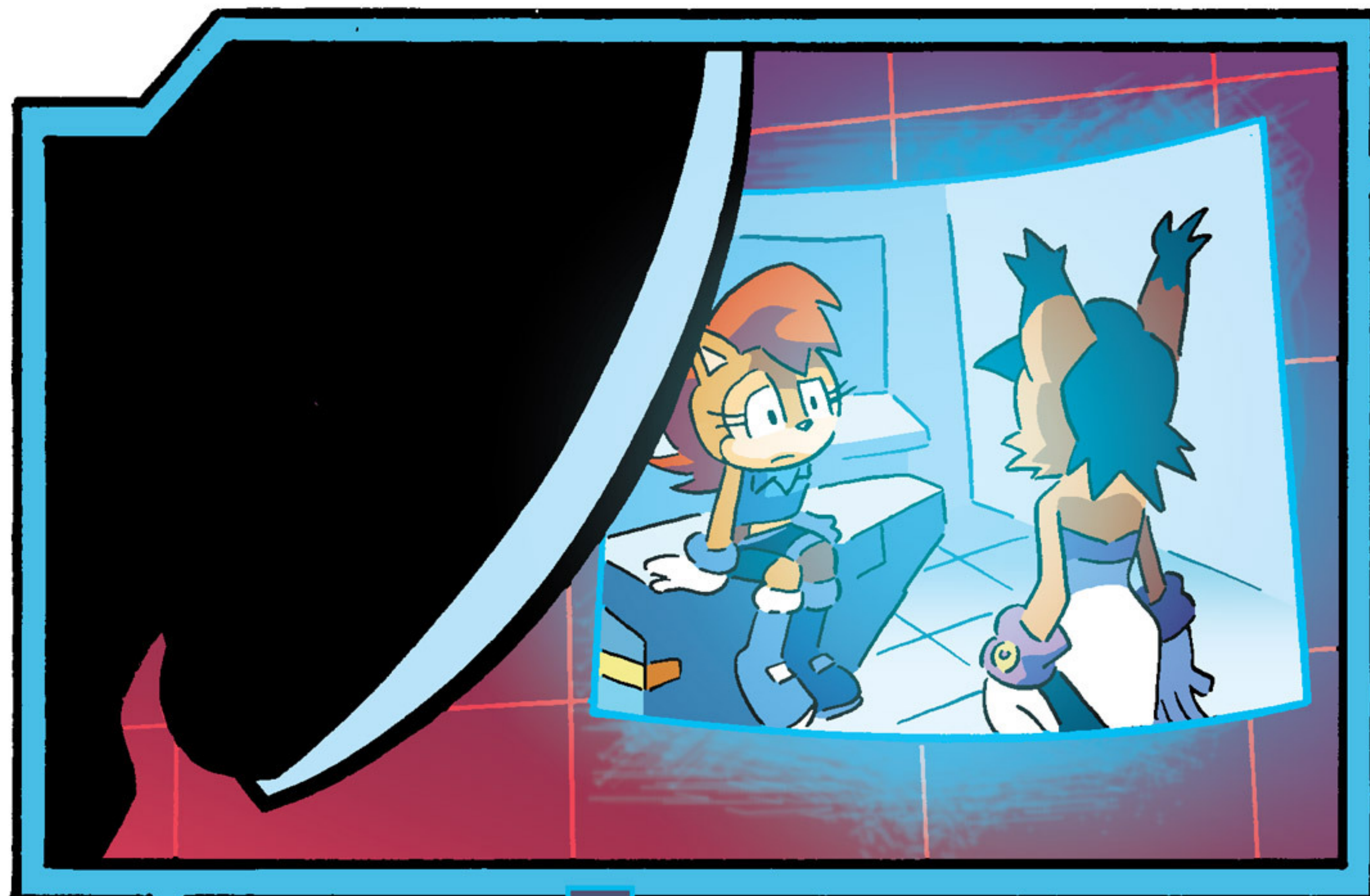
LET ME HELP.

NO, NO, DON'T TROUBLE YOURSELF. I JUST NEED TO REST FOR A LITTLE WHILE.

NICOLE... WE CAN TALK LATER.

...VERY WELL.

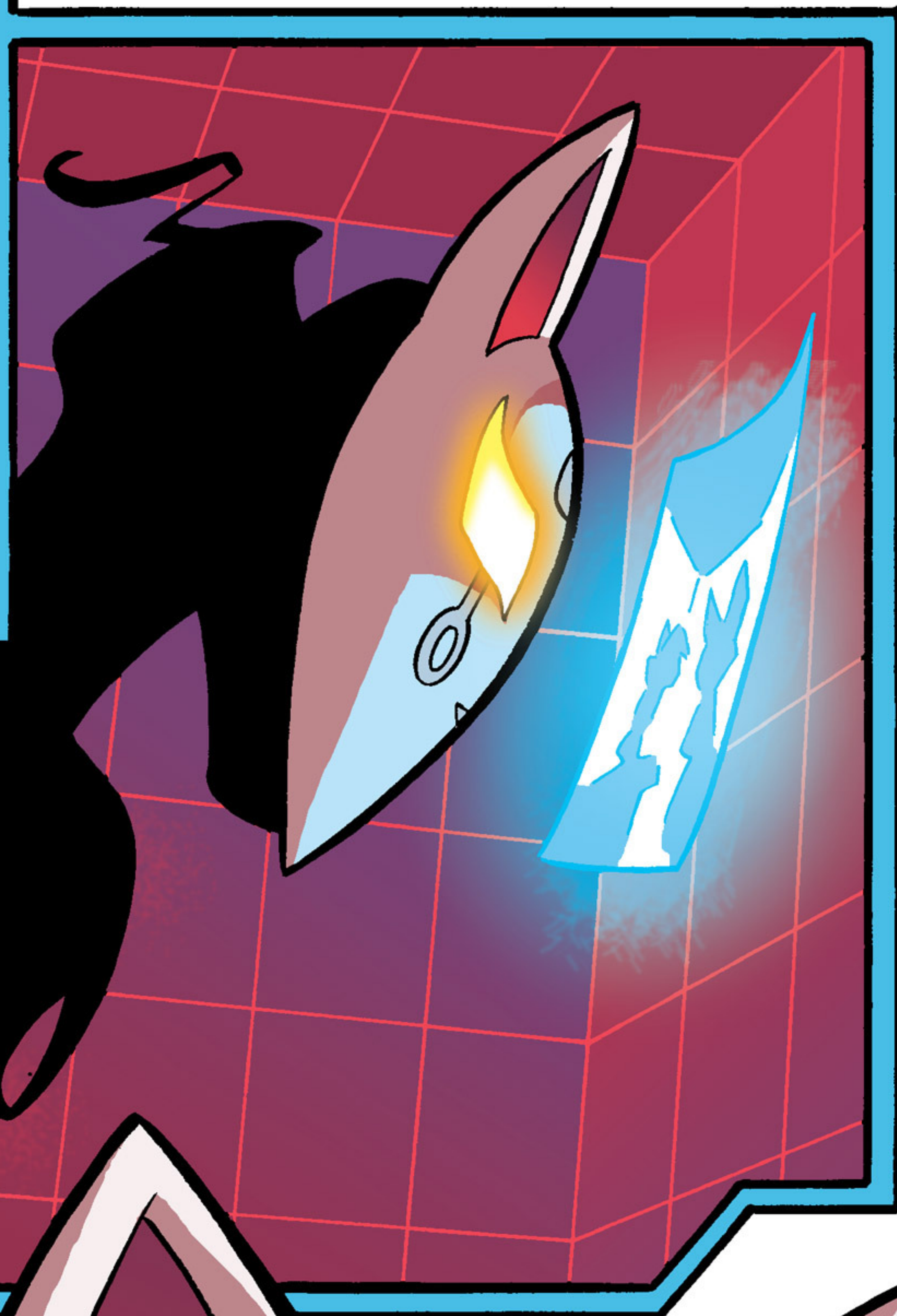




AN ORGANIC
BEING ABLE
TO PROJECT
A DIGITAL
BODY...

A DIGITAL
BEING ABLE TO
PROJECT A
PHYSICAL
BODY...

HOW
VERY...



FASCINATING.

THERE'S A
GHOST
IN THE MACHINE--
BUT WILL ANYONE
NOTICE IN TIME?

FIND OUT NEXT MONTH IN

SPARK
LiFE

OF

PART TWO

UNTIL THEN, DON'T MISS OUT
ON SONIC THE HEDGEHOG,
SONIC SUPER SPECIAL MAGAZINE,
SONIC SUPER DIGEST
and the GRAPHIC NOVEL LIBRARY.
PLUS, THERE'S EVEN MORE
FUN IN THE BRAND NEW SERIES
SONIC BOOM!